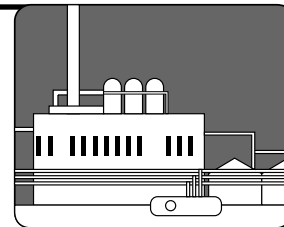


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Chapter 1

Introduction / Purpose

This report provides an overview of the information collected under the authority of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986 and contained in the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) database. It represents one piece of a broad public access initiative to provide the public with information on the release and transfer of certain toxic chemicals from facilities that manufacture, process, or otherwise use these substances.

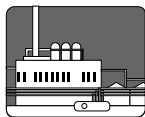
The source of data used in this report is the TRI. The TRI is a publicly available database containing information on releases and transfers into all environmental media including air, water, and land. This document summarizes data collected for calendar year 1995. Industry reporting forms for 1995 were due to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the states by July 1, 1996. This document also provides basic data for the two preceding years (1993 and 1994) and for the baseline year (1988) for comparison purposes. Although the first data were collected for calendar year 1987, 1988 was selected as the baseline year because of concerns about the data quality of industry's first-year submissions. The on-line computer database and

the CD-ROM version of the database contain the data collected for all years, including years not summarized in this report.

Additional information on these and other chemicals can be obtained through on-line providers such as the National Library of Medicine's TOXNET, the Right-to-Know Network's RTK NET, and EPA's Internet Server Earth1.

TWO-PHASE APPROACH TO RELEASE OF 1995 DATA

For 1995 TRI data, EPA is using a different approach to the data release. This change in approach is necessitated by the increasing complexity of the TRI data as well as the Agency's desire to provide the raw data to the public as soon as possible. EPA will be publishing two TRI reports. The first, reflected in this document, is a report that summarizes the raw data and arrays it in many of the ways that the public has come to expect. This report summarizes the basic 1995 data and presents significant nationwide trends. It addresses such topics as releases, transfers, and waste



management practices by state, industry (including federal facilities), and chemicals, pollution prevention information, and presents an initial comparison of the 1995 data against the two previous years (1993 and 1994) and 1988 (the first year data was analyzed). This report presents the complete 1995 data and the set of newly added chemicals, as well as the “core” data set of chemicals that have been reported since 1988.

The second phase of the data release will occur in the Fall of 1997 and will serve to provide a more in-depth look at the data and the trends. This second phase will include the publication of an industry sector-based analysis of trends as well as the publication of a comprehensive guide to TRI data use. The sector-based approach will compare like facilities to each other and will allow for a sector-based assessment of future prevention and technology needs. This sector based approach will allow for goal-setting within sectors and across facilities.

A ROADMAP TO THIS REPORT

This report is organized in the following manner. Chapter 1 (this chapter) articulates the purpose for the report and the schedule for the release of the 1995 TRI data. Chapter 2 provides an overview of TRI reporting, describing who reports, what is reported, and the benefits and limitations of the data. Chapter 3 presents the TRI in a broad perspective. The chapter looks at the expansion of the TRI (three phases), other modifications to the TRI, and the conclusion of the 33/50 Program. Chapter 4 presents the findings for the 1995 TRI data, including chemicals added for the 1995 reporting year. This chapter provides a national overview and also presents more detailed information by state, industry type (including federal facilities), and specific chemical. In addition, this chapter presents pollution prevention information. Chapter 5 presents the 1995 data in comparison to other reporting years.